THE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1784. [No. 1211.]

NEWPORT MERCURY.

Containing the freſheſt ADVICES FOREIGN and DOMESTIC.

Printed by HENRY BARBER, at the Foot of the PARADE.

" Whene'er our Country calls—Friends, Sons, and Sires, ſhould yield their Treaſure
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We are taught, both by the holy ſcriptures, and by the experience of ages, to believe that the Righteous Judge of the whole earth chaſtiſeth nations for their ſins, as well as individuals: And can it be expected that he will ſuffer this great iniquity to go unpuniſhed? As the deſign of the inſtitution of government is for a terror to evil doers, and the praiſe of them that do well, we wiſh it may be ſeriouſly conſidered, whether this has been made the rule of its adminiſtration in this land. Will it not rather be found on inquiry, that with reſpect to the enſlaved negroes, its benevolent purpoſes have been perverted; that its terrors have fallen on the innocent, while evil doers, and oppreſſors, have been openly encouraged?

But notwithſtanding government, in former times, have been induced by what we conceive to be a miſtaken, as well as an unjuſt policy, to promote this evil, we are perſuaded that many of the preſent members of the legiſlature, as true friends of civil and religious liberty, hold this unrighteous traffic in the utmoſt abhorrence. This perſuaſion, joined to the favourable reception of the petition of our laſt yearly meeting to the Houſe of Commons, encourages us to addreſs you, thus freely on this important ſubject; and we apprehend that the abolition of this iniquitous practice is not only required by the calls of juſtice and humanity, but is alſo conſiſtent with ſound policy. For avarice in this, as in other inſtances, has defeated its own purpoſe. Africa, ſo populous, and ſo rich in vegetable and mineral productions, inſtead of affording all the advantages of a well-regulated commerce, is ſcarcely known but as a mart for ſlaves, and as the ſcene of violence and barbarities, perpetrated, in order to procure them, by men profeſſing the Chriſtian religion.

The arguments which have been advanced by the few writers, who have attempted to juſtify this inhuman buſineſs, can have no weight with generous minds. Thoſe, in particular, which are drawn from the permiſſion to hold ſlaves amongſt the Jews, can in no wiſe be applied to the practice amongſt us: For bleſſed be the God and Father of all our mercies,* who hath made of one blood all nations of men, we now live under a diſpenſation eſſentially different from that of the law; in which many things were permitted to the Jews, becauſe of the hardneſs of their hearts. All diſtinctions of name and country, ſo far as they relate to the ſocial duties, are now aboliſhed. We are taught by our bleſſed Redeemer to look upon all men, even our enemies, as neighbours and brethren, and to do unto them as we would they ſhould do unto us.

Under a diſpenſation ſo admirably adapted to promote the temporal as well as the eternal happineſs of mankind, that any ſhould deviate ſo far from its principles, as to encourage a practice ſo replete with iniquity, and in particular that this nation, generally characterized by its attachment to civil and religious liberty, ſhould have contributed, perhaps more than any other, to the eſtabliſhment and continuance of ſlavery, is a moſt painful reflection. It would ſurely have been more conſiſtent with the avowed principles of Engliſhmen, both as men and as Chriſtians, if their ſettlements in heathen countries had been ſucceeded by mild and benevolent attempts to civilize their inhabitants, and to incline them to receive the glad tidings of the goſpel. But how different a conduct towards them has been purſued! It has not only been repugnant, in a political view, to thoſe commercial advantages which a fair and honorable treatment might have procured, but has evidently tended to increaſe the barbarity of their manners, and to excite in their minds an averſion to that religion, the profeſſors whereof ſo cruelly treat them.

This traffic is the principal ſource of the deſtructive wars which prevail among thoſe unhappy people, and is attended with conſequences, the mere recital of which is ſhocking to humanity. The violent ſeparation of the deareſt relatives, the tears of conjugal and parental affection, the reluctance of the ſlaves to a voyage from which they can have no proſpect of returning, muſt preſent ſcenes of diſtreſs which would pierce the heart of any, in whom the principles of humanity are not wholly effaced. This, however, is but the beginning of ſorrows with the poor captives. Under their cruel treatment on ſhip-board, where, without regard to health or decency, hundreds, are confined within the narrow limits of the hold, numbers periſh; and, by what is called the ſeaſoning in the Iſlands, many are relieved by a premature death, from that ſeries of accumulating ſufferings which await their leſs happy ſurvivors. The meaſure of their afflictions yet remains to be filled; being ſold to the higheſt bidder, and branded with a hot iron, they have yet to linger on, unpitied, the whole term of their miſerable exiſtence, in exceſſive labour, and too often under the mercileſs controul of unprincipled and unfeeling men, without proper food or clothing, or any encouragement to ſweeten their toil; whilſt every fault, real or imaginary, is puniſhed with a rigour which is but weakly reſtrained by the colony laws: Inſtances of the greateſt enormity, even the moſt wanton or deliberate murder of the ſlaves, being only puniſhed, if puniſhed at all, by trifling pecuniary fines.

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particular ſituations may admit. That ſo the bleſſings of thoſe who are ready to periſh may reſt upon you, and this nation may no longer, on their account, remain obnoxious to the righteous judgments of the Lord, who, in the moſt awful manner declared by his prophet, 'That 'the land ſhall tremble,* and every one mourn that 'dwelleth therein, for the iniquity of thoſe who 'oppreſs the poor, and cruſh the needy;' and who likewiſe pronounced a 'woe † unto him, 'that beguileth his houſe, by unrighteouſneſs, 'and his chambers by wrong; that uſeth his 'neighbour's ſervice without wages, and giveth 'him not for his work.'

Signed by order of the meeting for ſufferings ‡ London, the 28th day of eleventh month, 1783.

JOHN ADY,
Clerk to the Meeting.

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* *Amos* xiv. *and* viii. *chap.* † *Jeremiah* xxii. *chap.*

‡ *This meeting is compoſed of about one hundred members, reſiding in London, who are choſen by, and correſpond with, the meetings in the country. It was inſtituted, and thus named during the times of perſecution (Anno* 1675) *in order to receive accounts of the ſufferings of our members, and to ſolicit relief from thoſe in power. It ſtill continues to ſuperintend the general concerns of the ſociety, during the intervals of the yearly meeting.*

KINGSTON (JAMAICA) September 18.

Private letters from London, of reſpectable authority, mention that the Engliſh Miniſtry have been in treaty with the court of Spain for the ſurrender of the barren rock of Gibraltar, barren of every thing but hard-earned laurels, in lieu of which Spain offered the immenſely valuable iſland of Porto-Rico, and a large ſum of ready money to the tune of half a million ſterling, which, after being nearly concluded, was ſuddenly defeated, as it is thought, by the arts of the French Ambaſſador at Madrid, whoſe aſcendency in the Spaniſh Cabinet is well known over all Europe. This political interpoſition aroſe from the jealouſy the French entertained of the infinite advantage ſuch a ceſſion would give the Engliſh, in cutting off and ſeizing the French trade to Hiſpaniola, in caſe of a future war.

We learn by the Engliſh papers that the conſideration of the quantum of intercourſe to be allowed between the United States of America and the Britiſh Weſt-India iſlands, was deferred on a motion of Mr. Pitt, the 27th of July laſt, in the Houſe of Commons, until the next ſeſſion of Parliament, when it will come under the moſt deliberate inveſtigation of the Legiſlature; and it is ſuppoſed from ſomething which eſcaped the Chancellor of the Exchequer, about a middle way, in the courſe of the converſation which took place on this ſubject, that liberty will be granted to ſmall American veſſels, not exceeding a certain ſtated tonnage, to ſupply the Weſt-India iſlands with lumber and proviſions only.

CHARLESTON, (*S. Carolina*) *Nov* 24.

This day the ſloop Diana, Capt John Hull, arrived here from Rhode-Iſland, after a tedious paſſage of thee weeks, with whom came paſſengers, Mr. Stephen Mazyck and Mrs. Mazyck, James Sharp, Eſq; Mr. Adams, and ſeveral others.

PHILADELPHIA, December 1.

The Conſul General of France has received official information reſpecting the trade between the United States and the iſlands of France and Bourbon, otherwiſe called Maurities. The American veſſels ſhall enjoy full liberty to import into the ſaid iſlands cargoes, the produce of this continent, and to ſell it for money, or barter or exchange it for the produce of the Iſlands, or of India and China. This regulation is a material addition to the former, by which American veſſels were admitted to take refreſhments, and afterwards proceed on their voyage to India or China. Now they will have their option, and as they find the market in the Iſlands, they may continue their rout to Aſia, they may return to the Iſlands, may ſell their cargoes there, or may proceed farther, and ſhorten conſiderably their voyage. It is expected this liberal arrangement will be beneficial to the American Aſiatic trade.

NEW-YORK, Nov. 25.

Monday laſt His Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty's frigate La Flore, Capt. Grandchain, unfortunately run aground on the Weſt Bank; ſhe had on board a coaſting pilot, who was not ſufficiently acquainted with the navigation of our Bay: But by throwing her guns overboard, and employing lighters in taking out the heavy ſtores, &c. ſhe was got off without ſuſtaining any material injury, and came up laſt evening to the city.

This fine new frigate, of 40 eighteen pounders, a few weeks ſince, conveyed from Boſton to Virginia, the Marquis de la Fayette, who is gone to viſit his Excellency General Waſhington, at Mount Vernon.

Dec. 3. A report prevailed in London, at the ſailing of the packet, that Tippoo Saib having ordered that general Matthews ſhould be brought into his preſence (which general the Indian had detained priſoner contrary to the faith and laws of nations, and in violation of articles of capitulation) ſpoke to him in a very haughty tone, which compelled the general to upbraid him with a breach of faith, at which Tippoo was ſo provoked, that he drew his ſabre, and cut the general to pieces.

NEWPORT, December 11.

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The Americans are freely to uſe and Trade to all the Portugueſe Settlements in Aſia and South-America, where they are to pay the accuſtomed Duties; the Ships of each Nation are to ſalute the Flag of the other reciprocally. An American Conſul is to reſide at Liſbon; another at Oporto; and they are to have an Agent in the Brazils and at Goa. The Portugueſe are to have a Conſul in America (to chooſe their Port) and Agents in two other of the principal Cities. Perſons in public Character are to be treated with the uſual Reſpect, and the Americans are to eſtabliſh a Factory at Liſbon at Pleaſure.

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His Excellency Patrick Henry, Eſq; is elected Governor of Virginia; and His Excellency William Paca, Eſq; is unanimouſly re-elected Governor of the State of Maryland, for the enſuing Year.

MARRIED.]—At the Friends Meeting-Houſe in Providence, Captain SHUBAEL COFFIN, of Nantucket, to Miſs SALLY OLNEY, Daughter of Mr. RICHARD OLNEY, of that Town.

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DIED]—In this City, Deacon NATHANIEL COGGESHALL, in the 83d Year of his Age.

Extract from the State Law for preventing the ſpreading the SMALL-POX.

"AND be it further Enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That any Perſon or Perſons who ſhall be legally convicted of wilfully and purpoſely ſpreading the ſmall-pox within this Colony, he, ſhe or they ſhall be adjudged to ſuffer the Pains and Penalty of Death, as in the Caſe of Felony, without Benefit of the Clergy.—And all Perſons legally convicted of wickedly endeavouring to ſpread the ſame, ſhall be ſentenced to be whipped, not exceeding Thirty-nine Laſhes, and ſuffer Six Months Impriſonment, and be kept to hard Labour."

Publiſhed by Order of the City Council:
Witneſs,
J. GRELEA, *Clerk.*
Newport, December 9, 1784.

particular ſituations may admit. That ſo the bleſſings of thoſe who are ready to periſh may reſt upon you, and this nation may no longer, on their account, remain obnoxious to the righteous judgments of the Lord, who, in the moſt awful manner declared by his prophet, 'That 'the land ſhall tremble,* and every one mourn that 'dwelleth therein, for the iniquity of thoſe who 'oppreſs the poor, and cruſh the needy;' and who likewiſe pronounced a 'woe † unto him, 'that beguileth his houſe, by unrighteouſneſs, 'and his chambers by wrong; that uſeth his 'neighbour's ſervice without wages, and giveth 'him not for his work.'

Signed by order of the meeting for ſufferings ‡ London, the 28th day of eleventh month, 1783.

JOHN ADY,
Clerk to the Meeting.

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* *Amos* xiv. *and* viii. *chap.* † *Jeremiah* xxii. *chap.*

‡ *This meeting is compoſed of about one hundred members, reſiding in London, who are choſen by, and correſpond with, the meetings in the country. It was inſtituted, and thus named during the times of perſecution (Anno* 1675) *in order to receive accounts of the ſufferings of our members, and to ſolicit relief from thoſe in power. It ſtill continues to ſuperintend the general concerns of the ſociety, during the intervals of the yearly meeting.*

KINGSTON (JAMAICA) September 18.

Private letters from London, of reſpectable authority, mention that the Engliſh Miniſtry have been in treaty with the court of Spain for the ſurrender of the barren rock of Gibraltar, barren of every thing but hard-earned laurels, in lieu of which Spain offered the immenſely valuable iſland of Porto-Rico, and a large ſum of ready money to the tune of half a million ſterling, which, after being nearly concluded, was ſuddenly defeated, as it is thought, by the arts of the French Ambaſſador at Madrid, whoſe aſcendency in the Spaniſh Cabinet is well known over all Europe. This political interpoſition aroſe from the jealouſy the French entertained of the infinite advantage ſuch a ceſſion would give the Engliſh, in cutting off and ſeizing the French trade to Hiſpaniola, in caſe of a future war.

We learn by the Engliſh papers that the conſideration of the quantum of intercourſe to be allowed between the United States of America and the Britiſh Weſt-India iſlands, was deferred on a motion of Mr. Pitt, the 27th of July laſt, in the Houſe of Commons, until the next ſeſſion of Parliament, when it will come under the moſt deliberate inveſtigation of the Legiſlature; and it is ſuppoſed from ſomething which eſcaped the Chancellor of the Exchequer, about a middle way, in the courſe of the converſation which took place on this ſubject, that liberty will be granted to ſmall American veſſels, not exceeding a certain ſtated tonnage, to ſupply the Weſt-India iſlands with lumber and proviſions only.

CHARLESTON, (*S. Carolina*) *Nov* 24.

This day the ſloop Diana, Capt John Hull, arrived here from Rhode-Iſland, after a tedious paſſage of thee weeks, with whom came paſſengers, Mr. Stephen Mazyck and Mrs. Mazyck, James Sharp, Eſq; Mr. Adams, and ſeveral others.

PHILADELPHIA, December 1.

The Conſul General of France has received official information reſpecting the trade between the United States and the iſlands of France and Bourbon, otherwiſe called Mauritius. The American veſſels ſhall enjoy full liberty to import into the ſaid iſlands cargoes, the produce of this continent, and to ſell it for money, or barter or exchange it for the produce of the Iſlands, or of India and China. This regulation is a material addition to the former, by which American veſſels were admitted to take refreſhments, and afterwards proceed on their voyage to India or China. Now they will have their option, and as they find the market in the Iſlands, they may continue their rout to Aſia, they may return to the Iſlands, may ſell their cargoes there, or may proceed farther, and ſhorten conſiderably their voyage. It is expected this liberal arrangement will be beneficial to the American Aſiatic trade.

NEW-YORK, Nov. 25.

Monday laſt his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty's frigate La Minerve, Capt. Grandchain, unfortunately run aground on the Weſt Bank; ſhe had on board a coaſting pilot, who was not ſufficiently acquainted with the navigation of our Bay: But by throwing her guns overboard, and employing lighters in taking out the heavy ſtores, &c. ſhe was got off without ſuſtaining any material injury, and came up laſt evening to the city.

This fine new frigate, of 40 eighteen pounders, a few weeks ſince, conveyed from Boſton to Virginia, the Marquis de la Fayette, who is gone to viſit his Excellency General Waſhington, at Mount Vernon.

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Publiſhed by Order of the City Council:
Witneſs,
J. GRELEA, *Clerk.*
Newport, December 9, 1784.

Of the Obscurity of LAWS.

[Written by the Marquis BECCARIA, of Milan.]

IF the power of interpreting laws be an evil, obscurity in them must be another, as this former is the consequence of the latter. This evil will be still greater, if the laws be written in a language unknown to the people; who, being ignorant of the consequences of their own actions, become necessarily dependent on a few who are interpreters of the laws, which, instead of being public and general, are thus rendered private and particular. What must we think of mankind, when we reflect, that such is the established custom of the greatest part of our polished and enlightened Europe? Crimes will be less frequent, in proportion as the code of laws is more universally read and understood; for there is no doubt, but that the eloquence of the passions is greatly assisted by the ignorance, and uncertainty of punishments.

Hence it follows, that without written laws, no society will ever acquire a fixed form of government, in which the power is vested in the whole, and not in any part of the society; and in which the laws are not to be altered but by the will of the whole, nor corrupted by the force of private interest. Experience and reason shew us, that the probability of human traditions diminishes in proportion as they are distant from their sources. How then can laws resist the inevitable force of time, if there be not a lasting monument of the social compact?

Hence we see the use of PRINTING, which alone makes the public, and not a few individuals, the guardians and defenders of the laws. It is this ART, which, by diffusing literature, has gradually dissipated the gloomy spirit of cabal and intrigue. To this ART it is owing, that the atrocious crimes of our ancestors, who were alternately slaves and tyrants, are become less frequent. Those who are acquainted with the history of the two or three last centuries, may observe, how from the lap of luxury and effeminacy have sprung the most tender virtues, humanity, benevolence, and toleration of human errors. They may contemplate the effects of what was so improperly called, ancient simplicity, and good faith; humanity groaning under implacable superstition; the avarice and ambition of a few staining, with human blood, the thrones and palaces of King's; secret treasons, and public massacres; every noble a tyrant over the people; and the Ministers of the Gospel of Christ bathing their hands in blood, in the name of the God of all mercy. We may talk as we please of the corruption and degeneracy of the present age, but happily we see no such horrid examples of cruelty and oppression.

☞ *The fortunate Numbers in the First Class of the First Congregational Church Lottery, will be inserted in our next.*

NAVAL-OFFICE, *Port of Newport, Dec.* 11.

INWARD ENTRIES,	*From*
Snow Conception, A. Joze Dacrus,	Lisbon.
Sloop Peggy, R. Lawton,	New-York.
Sloop Washington, J. Norris,	Ditto.
CLEARED,	*For*
Brig Richmond, J. Greene,	Virginia.
Sloop Adventure, E. Paine,	South-Carolina.
Sloop Newport Packet, P. Gilbert,	Philadelphia.
Schooner Betsy, T. Jones,	Hispaniola.
Sloop Washington, W. Allen,	New-York.
Sloop Betsy, U. Dunham,	Massachusetts.
Brig L'Henry Quatre, J. Grimes,	Hispaniola.

PORT of PHILADELPHIA.

Wardens Office, October 21, 1784.

TO encourage the pilots to ply off at a distance from the Capes of Delaware, the Wardens of the Port recommend to the Masters of all vessels inward-bound, to shew a light at some convenient part of the vessel, as soon as they strike soundings (if it should be in the night) and continue it until day-light. They likewise recommend to the masters of vessels, and pilots thereof, to shew lights in the dark or foggy weather, while at anchor in the bay or river, which will undoubtedly prevent accidents, that often happen from such neglect.

By order of the Board,
JACOB S. HOWELL, Secretary.

*** *Advertisements omitted this Week will be inserted in our next.*

In GENERAL ASSEMBLY, October Session, A. D. 1784.

IT is Voted and Resolved, That Messrs. CALEB GARDNER, JOHN TOPHAM, and DANIEL MASON, be and they are hereby appointed a Committee to sell at public or private Sale, on or before the First Day of January next, the following Estates, confiscated to and for the Use of this State (viz. One Eighth Part of an Acre of Land, late belonging to Thomas Banister, all the Right of Martin Howard, Esq; in the Lot of Land and Dwelling-House, late belonging to Thomas Hazard, a Brew-House and Lot of Land, late the Property of George Rome, all being within the City of Newport, and all the Right, Interest and Property which was confiscated to and for the Use of this State in the Mortgage given by Job Almy to Isaac Lawton, of Thirty Acres of Land, lying in the Town of Middletown, in the County of Newport; that the same be sold for any Notes issued by the General Treasurer of this State carrying an Interest of Six per Cent. That the same be sold at their Discretion, and the Amount of Sales be paid into the General Treasury. *A true Copy:* Witness,
HENRY WARD, *Secretary.*

TO BE SOLD, BY
SILAS DEAN,
At his Shop near the Red Market, formerly improved by Captain John Watson,

A VARIETY of DRY GOODS and a small Assortment of HARDWARE, which he sells at the *cheapest* Rate, and flatters himself he shall give perfect Satisfaction to those who please to call at his Shop.

He has also for Sale *Hyson Tea*, at 12/. per lb. warranted good.

Newport, December 11, 1784.

FOR
CHARLESTON,
(SOUTH CAROLINA)
The new and beautiful SHIP
UNION,
JOSIAH HAZARD, Master.

SHE has most excellent Accommodations for Passengers, and will sail about the 25th of the present Month. For Freight or Passage apply to BROWN, ROGERS and BROWN, or to the Captain on board, at Thurber's Wharf, Providence—or to ROBERT ROGERS, in Newport.

Providence, 1st Dec. 1784.

THE Subscriber informs the Public, that he carries on the BRASIER's BUSINESS, in all its Branches, on the Long-Wharf, a little below the Draw-bridge: Those who please to employ him may depend upon having their work done in the best Manner, by their humble Servant, LOUIS LARBOSS.

Newport, December 10, 1784.

EIGHT DOLLARS Reward.

STOLEN out of the Pasture of the Subscriber, in Middletown, on the Night of the 6th instant, a black HORSE, about 13 Hands and a Half high; he has a white Star in his Forehead, and a white Strip on his Nose, which is all the white, about him; is a natural Pacer, and about 8 Years old. Whoever takes up the said Horse and secures the Thief, so that he may be brought to Justice shall have the above Reward, or for the Horse only, Two Dollars, paid by

JOSEPH HOWLAND.

December 10, 1784.

A Married Woman, who has a good Breast of Milk, and has lately lost her Child, would be glad to take one in to suckle. Inquire of the Printer.

TO BE SOLD, BY
SAMUEL DYER,

ABOUT Forty Acres of the South Part of his FARM, in Newport, in Lots from one Acre and upwards, as will best suit those that incline to purchase; the Price and Pay may be known by applying to said Dyer.

GEORGE GIBBS

HAS for Sale, at the Stores, on his Wharf, a constant Supply of new Philadelphia superfine and common FLOUR—Swedish and Philadelphia Bar-Iron sorted—Tea by the Chest, or smaller Quantity—Sherry and Lisbon Wines, by the Quarter Cask—Cables from 5 to 8 Inches—Coarse and fine Salt.

FLAX-SEED.

Cash, or any of the above Articles, will be given for clean Flax-Seed.

TO BE SOLD,

A MORTGAGE on two Lots of Land, one of 7, and the other of 9 Acres, lying in North-Kingstown, with a Dwelling-House thereon. Also the One Half of a Grist and Snuff Mills, Iron-Works, &c. &c. known by the Name of Bissell's Mills, and are so commodiously and pleasantly situated as to require no Recommendation.—The Terms may be known by applying to the Subscriber.

JOHN BOURS.
Administrator to the Estate of
Peter James.

To be SOLD, in South-Kingstown,

A Lot of Land, containing about 50 Acres, chiefly of Wood, about Two Miles from Little-Rest, formerly the Property of James Easton, deceased. Whoever inclines to purchase said Lot, by applying to JOB DURFEE, of Portsmouth, or Capt. ROBERT LAWTON, in Newport, may know the Terms.

Newport, 18th of 11th Month, 1784.

WANTED,

BY the FISHING COMPANY lately established in the City of Newport, a Number of Schooners from Forty to Sixty Tons, to be launched by the 10th Day of March next: Any Person or Persons inclining to furnish the said Company with one or more of said Schooners by the Time aforesaid, are desired to apply on or before the first Day of December next, to either of the Subscribers, Agents for the Company aforesaid. ETHAN CLARKE,
CONSTANT TABER.

James Center

Has to sell, at his Shop in Thames street,

LAVENDER Water—Essence of Burgamot, in small Bottles—Down and Silk Powder Puffs—Ditto Bags and Boxes—Plain and scented Hair-Powder—Turnbull's Shaving Powder and Marble Wash Balls—Court Plaster—Teeth Brushes and Powder Knives—Razor Straps with two Razors each—Shaving Boxes and Brushes—Silk Cauls—Raw Silk and Tin Tacks—Rack, Buckling and other Combs.

Said Center will give a generous Price for good live Hair.

Of the Obscurity of Laws.

[Written by the Marquis Beccaria, of Milan.]

If the power of interpreting laws be an evil, obscurity in them must be another, as the former is the consequence of the latter. This evil will be still greater, if the laws be written in a language unknown to the people; who, being ignorant of the consequences of their own actions, become necessarily dependent on a few who are interpreters of the laws, which, instead of being public and general, are thus rendered private and particular. What must we think of mankind, when we reflect, that such is the established custom of the greatest part of our polished and enlightened Europe? Crimes will be less frequent, in proportion as the code of laws is more universally read and understood; for there is no doubt, but that the eloquence of the passions is greatly assisted by the ignorance, and uncertainty of punishments.

Hence it follows, that without written laws, no society will ever acquire a fixed form of government, in which the power is vested in the whole, and not in any part of the society; and in which the laws are not to be altered but by the will of the whole, nor corrupted by the force of private interest. Experience and reason shew us, that the probability of human traditions diminishes in proportion as they are distant from their sources. How then can laws resist the inevitable force of time, if there be not a lasting monument of the social compact?

Hence we see the use of PRINTING, which alone makes the public, and not a few individuals, the guardians and defenders of the laws. It is this ART, which, by diffusing literature, has gradually dissipated the gloomy spirit of cabal and intrigue. To this ART it is owing, that the atrocious crimes of our ancestors, who were alternately slaves and tyrants, are become less frequent. Those who are acquainted with the history of the two or three last centuries, may observe, how from the lap of luxury rnd effeminacy have sprung the most tender virtues, humanity, benevolence, and toleration of human errors. They may contemplate the effects of what was so improperly called, ancient simplicity, and good faith; humanity groaning under implacable superstition; the avarice and ambition of a few staining, with human blood, the thrones and palaces of King's; secret treasons, and public massacres; every noble a tyrant over the people; and the Ministers of the Gospel of Christ bathing their hands in blood, in the name of the God of all mercy. We may talk as we please of the corruption and degeneracy of the present age, but happily we see no such horrid examples of cruelty and oppression.

☞ *The fortunate Numbers in the First Class of the First Congregational Church Lottery, will be inserted in our next.*

NAVAL-OFFICE, *Port of Newport, Dec.* 11.

INWARD ENTRIES,	*From*
Snow Conception, A. Joze Dacrus,	Lisbon.
Sloop Peggy, R. Lawton,	New-York.
Sloop Washington, J. Norris,	Ditto.
CLEARED,	*For*
Brig Richmond, J. Greene,	Virginia.
Sloop Adventure, E. Paine,	South-Carolina.
Sloop Newport Packet, P. Gilbert,	Philadelphia.
Schooner Betsy, T. Jones,	Hispaniola.
Sloop Washington, W. Allen,	New-York.
Sloop Betsy, U. Dunham,	Massachusetts.
Brig L'Henry Quatre, J. Grimes,	Hispaniola.

PORT of PHILADELPHIA.

Wardens Office, October 21, 1784.

To encourage the pilots to ply off at a distance from the Capes of Delaware, the Wardens of the Port recommend to the Masters of all vessels inward-bound, to shew a light at some convenient part of the vessel, as soon as they strike soundings (if it should be in the night) and continue it until day-light. They likewise recommend to the masters of vessels, and pilots thereof, to shew lights in the dark or foggy weather, while at anchor in the bay or river, which will undoubtedly prevent accidents, that often happen from such neglect.

By order of the Board,
JACOB S. HOWELL, Secretary.

*** *Advertisements omitted this Week will be inserted in our next.*

In GENERAL ASSEMBLY, October Session, A. D. 1784.

It is Voted and Resolved, That Messrs. Caleb Gardner, John Topham, and Daniel Mason, be and they are hereby appointed a Committee to sell at public or private Sale, on or before the First Day of January next, the following Estates, confiscated to and for the Use of this State (viz. One Eighth Part of an Acre of Land, late belonging to Thomas Banister, all the Right of Martin Howard, Esq; in the Lot of Land and Dwelling House, late belonging to Thomas Hazard, a Brew House and Lot of Land, late the Property of George Rome, all being within the City of Newport, and all the Right, Interest and Property which was confiscated to and for the Use of this State in the Mortgage given by Job Almy to Isaac Lawton, of Thirty Acres of Land, lying in the Town of Middletown, in the County of Newport; that the same be sold for any Notes issued by the General Treasurer of this State carrying an Interest of Six per Cent. That the same be sold at their Discretion, and the Amount of Sales be paid into the General Treasury. *A true Copy:* *Witness,*
HENRY WARD, *Secretary.*

TO BE SOLD, BY
SILAS DEAN,
At his Shop near the Red Market, formerly improved by Captain John Watson,

A VARIETY of DRY GOODS and a small Assortment of HARDWARE, which he sells at the *cheapest* Rate, and flatters himself he shall give perfect Satisfaction to those who please to call at his Shop.

He has also for Sale *Hyson Tea*, at 12*s.* per lb. warranted good.

Newport, December 11, 1784.

FOR
CHARLESTON,
(South Carolina)
The new and beautiful SHIP
UNION,
JOSIAH HAZARD, Master.

She has most excellent Accommodations for Passengers, and will sail about the 25th of the present Month. For Freight or Passage apply to Brown, Rogers and Brown, or to the Captain on board, at Thurber's Wharf, Providence—or to Robert Rogers, in Newport.

Providence, 1st Dec. 1784.

The Subscriber informs the Public, that he carries on the BRASIER'S BUSINESS, in all its Branches, on the Long-Wharf, a little below the Draw-bridge: Those who please to employ him may depend upon having their work done in the best Manner, by their humble Servant, LOUIS LARBOSS.

Newport, December 10, 1784.

EIGHT DOLLARS Reward.

Stolen out of the Pasture of the Subscriber, in Middletown, on the Night of the 6th instant, a black HORSE, about 13 Hands and a Half high; he has a white Star in his Forehead, and a white Strip on his Nose, which is all the white, about him; is a natural Pacer, and about 8 Years old. Whoever takes up the said Horse and secures the Thief, so that he may be brought to Justice shall have the above Reward, or for the Horse only, Two Dollars, paid by

JOSEPH HOWLAND.

December 10, 1784.

A Married Woman, who has a good Breast of Milk, and has lately lost her Child, would be glad to take one in to suckle. Inquire of the Printer.

TO BE SOLD, BY
SAMUEL DYER,

About Forty Acres of the South Part of his FARM, in Newport, in Lots from one Acre and upwards, as will best suit those that incline to purchase; the Price and Pay may be known by applying to said Dyer.

GEORGE GIBBS

Has for Sale, at the Stores, on his Wharf, a constant Supply of new Philadelphia superfine and common FLOUR—Swedish and Philadelphia Bar-Iron sorted—Tea by the Chest, or smaller Quantity—Sherry and Lisbon Wines, by the Quarter Cask—Cables from 5 to 8 Inches—Coarse and fine Salt.

FLAX-SEED.

Cash, or any of the above Articles, will be given for clean Flax-Seed.

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Said Center will give a generous Price for good live Hair.

An ORDINANCE to prevent Perſons riding on horſeback, within the Poſts placed upon the Sides of the Streets in the City of Newport.

BE *it Ordained by the Mayor, Aldermen and Commen Council, in City Council aſſembled, and by their Authority it is ordained*, That for the future no Perſon whatſoever ſhall preſume to ride on horſeback within the Poſts placed on the Sides of the Streets in this City, upon the Penalty of forfeiting the Sum of Six Shillings, Lawful Money, for every Offence; to be recovered on Complaint and Proof made before either of the Wardens of this City, and paid into the City Treaſury for the Uſe of the Poor: And that this Ordinance ſhall be publiſhed three Weeks ſucceſſively in the Newport Mercury.

A true Copy:
Witneſs,
J. GRELEA, *Clerk.*

An Extract from the State Law for preventing exceſſive riding in any of the Streets of this City.

"IF any Perſon ſhall ride faſter than a common travelling Pace in any of the Streets of Newport, ſuch Perſon ſhall pay as a Fine the Sum of Ten Shillings for every Offence; one Half thereof to the Informer, and the other Half to and for the Uſe of the Poor, unleſs juſtifiable Cauſe for ſuch riding ſhall be made appear."

Publiſhed by Order of the City Council:
Witneſs,
J. GRELEA, *Clerk.*

JACOB ISAACKS, Broker,

IN addition to his late Advertiſement inſerted in this Paper, has to charter a Brigantine of about 125 Tons, which will be ready to take in her Cargo by the 15th of next Month.

He continues to buy and ſell Government Securities, and tranſacts every other Buſineſs in the Brokerage Way.

HE HAS FOR SALE,

A Brigantine of 125 Tons, about four Years old, with all her Rigging, Sails, &c. and ſeveral Hulls of new Veſſels of different Sizes. Likewiſe Two Sloops to charter, the one of 40, the other of 60 Tons—and ſome Treaſurer's Six per Cent. Notes to diſpoſe of.

Newport, November 30, 1784.

TO BE SOLD,

A very handſome two decked Brigantine, of about 120 Tons, Engliſh built, with all her Spars, Rigging, &c. and is every way completely fitted for Sea. For further Particulars inquire of Oliver R. Warner, or Meſſrs. Daniel and Joſeph Rogers, Merchants, in Newport.

Newport, Nov. 10th, 1784.

Chriſtopher Champlin

Has to ſell, at his Store, for CASH,

WINDOW GLASS,

by the Box, 8 by 6—9 by 7—and 10 by 8.

Newport, October 29, 1784.

TO BE SOLD, BY

William Minturn,

At his Store, on the Wharf oppoſite Col. John Malbone's Dwelling-Houſe,

SPERMACETI Candles and ſtrain Oil; Bar Iron; Ruſſia and Ravens Duck; Bohea Tea, by the Cheſt or ſmaller Quantity; Liſbon Wine, by the Quarter Caſk; Molaſſes and Rum, by the Hogſhead; and common and ſuperfine Flour.

To be SOLD, by the SUBSCRIBERS, at the Wharf of CALEB GARDNER,

BROWN SUGARS by the Hogſhead or Barrel,
Coffee by the Barrel,
Cotton Wool by the Bag,
Claret Wine by the Tierce,
French Rum by the Tierce,
Brandy by the Anchor and Half Anchor,
Bohea Tea by the Cheſt, Hundred, or Dozen,
Hyſon Tea by the Dozen or ſingle Pound,
Rigging by the Coil or ſmaller Quantity,
Bar-Iron, round, ſquare and flat,
Anchovies by the Box,
Capers Ditto,
Olives Ditto,
Cordials,
Preſerved Fruit, &c. &c.

Alſo LISBON SALT by the 100 or ſingle Buſhel.

CALEB GARDNER,
CONSTANT TABER.

N. B Orders on the Impoſt-Office will be taken in pay for any of the above Articles.

They Want to purchaſe about 1000 Buſhels of good merchantable CORN, well dried, and fit for immediate ſhipping.

Newport, Nov. 16, 1784.

TO BE SOLD, BY
JAMES ROBINSON,

At his Store, on the Wharf formerly Simon Peale's, deceaſed,

RUSIA Duck; Raven's Ditto; Bohea Tea, by the Cheſt, Hundred, or Dozen; Bar-Iron, round flat and ſquare; Peterſburg Hemp and Cordage of all Sizes.

Newport, October 2, 1784.

CHRSTOPHER CHAMPLIN

Hath juſt imported, and has now to ſell at his Store,

BOHEA-TEA, by the Cheſt; Swediſh Iron aſſorted; Ruſſia and Ravens Duck; Cordage—and a ſmall Aſſortment of Engliſh Goods.

Newport, October 8, 1784.

TO BE SOLD.

A Convenient DWELLING HOUSE with a Yard, Garden and good Well of Water, late the Eſtate of Thomas Richardſon, deceaſed, An indiſputable Title will be given to the Purchaſer. For Particulars inquire of

CHRISTOPHER ELLERY,
GEORGE SEARS.

Newport Nov. 27, 1784.

TO BE SOLD.

A Lot with a convenient Dwelling-Houſe almoſt new ſtanding thereon, ſituated in a pleaſant Part of the City. Inquire of the Printer.

Robert Rogers

HEREBY informs the public, he has lately received and is now ſelling, at his ſhop, a very general aſſortment of goods, ſuitable for all, but more particularly the approaching ſeaſon, where cuſtomers may be ſupplied on as reaſonable terms, as at any ſtore in the ſtate.—He has likewiſe to diſpoſe of—large octavo bibles, teſtiments, Æſop's fables, Watts's pſalms and hymns, and a collection of the moſt new and entertaining novels and plays, Entick's dictionaries, ſong books, &c. &c.

John Cooke

Has received by the laſt Importations a complete Aſſortment of

Fall and Winter Goods,

Which he has for Sale, at his Shop, next Door South of the Hon. George Hazard, Eſq; exceeding cheap for Caſh.

The ſmalleſt Favours moſt gratefully acknowledged.

George Gibbs

HAS juſt received in the Waſhington, Capt. Smith, a very large Supply of Fall and Winter GOODS of every Kind, which he is now ſelling, at his Store next Northward of his Dwelling-Houſe—The above, added to thoſe he was before furniſhed with, makes his Aſſortment as complete as can be imported.

Newport, October 22, 1784.

Thomas Howland

HATH received by the Waſhington, Capt. Smith, a general Aſſortment of DRY GOODS, ſuitable for the preſent and approaching Seaſon, which he will ſell on ſuch low Terms as muſt give Satisfaction; and will aſſure the Public, that thoſe who are not acquainted with the Price of Goods, may rely on being ſerved at his Shop, on as good Terms as the very beſt Judges.

He returns his beſt Thanks to thoſe who have favoured him with their Cuſtom, and begs Leave to aſſure them, that his utmoſt Endeavours will be to merit a Continuance of their Favours.

Newport, Oct. 29, 1784.

State of Rhode-Iſland and Providence Plantations.

THE Subſcribers being by the Hon. General Aſſembly appointed a Committee to adjuſt, and final Settlement make of all the Demands againſt the Eſtates of Joſeph Wanton, jun. and William Wanton, late of Newport, in the County of Newport, Merchants, Abſentees, do hereby give Notice, that they will meet for that Purpoſe at the Houſe of Mr. John Lawton, in the City of Newport, on the Firſt Day of January next, the Creditors to ſaid Eſtates are deſired to leave their reſpective Demands in writing with Mr. Daniel Maſon, in Newport, previous to ſaid Time affixed; thoſe Perſons who neglect to attend upon ſaid Committee, with their reſpective Vouchers will be forever after excluded from taking any Benefit from ſaid Eſtates.

ESECK HOPKINS,
DANIEL MASON,
NATHAN MILLER,
BENJAMIN ARNOLD,
R. J. HELME.

Nov. 1, 1784.

Aaron Sheffield

TAKES this Method to inform his Friends and the Public in general, that he has removed from Greenwich to Newport, and has opened the Shop formerly belonging to Capt. Shearman Clark, where he has for ſale a general Aſſortment of European, Eaſt-India and Weſt-India Goods, on the moſt reaſonable Terms, for Caſh or Flax-Seed. Among the above are a well choſen Aſſortment of Fall and Winter Goods.

TO BE SOLD,

A Likely ſtout Negro Fellow, about 25 Years of Age, that is very Active, and underſtands the Farming Buſineſs exceedingly well. Inquire of the Printer.

CASH given for clean Cotton and Linen RAGS, by the Printer hereof.